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a complete disappearance of this substance been shown by the experiments, conclusive proof would then have been afforded of the primary nature of the aldehyde.

H. M. R.

**Light and the Respiration of Fungi.**<sup>1</sup>—By a series of carefully arranged experiments, chiefly with *Aspergillus glaucus* and *Penicillium*, it is shown that the action of light increases (*circa* 10 per cent) the respiration of these fungi, and that this increase is independent of the food supply and of the morphological condition of the culture. As the author says, this increase, though not great, is quite contrary to what our knowledge of these forms would lead us to expect. He refrains from drawing any conclusions from the present data, evidently purposing to pursue the matter further. The results recorded are noteworthy and, if supported by further ones, are of considerable importance.

H. M. R.

**Spore Development in the Hemiascæ.**<sup>2</sup>—Two forms of this heterogeneous group are considered in detail as to their spore development. These are Ascoidea and Protomyces. In the former it appears that the spores when ripe lie in a mass of protoplasm analogous to the condition generally found among the Ascomycetes, but the multinucleate condition of the ascus and the behavior of these contained nuclei do not seem to correspond to the observations recorded in the late researches on this last-named group. In Protomyces, on the other hand, the spores do not lie imbedded in a mass of unused protoplasm, but are free within the remnant of the protoplasmic sac which still adheres to the wall of the sporangium. This condition the author regards as more nearly akin to that found in the Phycomycetes. The result of the observations seems to show that these two members of the Hemiasci, aside from their radical dissimilarity in other ways, are not closely related in the matter of spore formation. This it will be noticed does not agree with the arrangement of these forms adopted by Brefeld, but to the average observer who has seen Protomyces, points of similarity of that form with the phycomycetous fungi are not surprising.

H. M. R.

**A New Work on Lichens.**—Lieferung 180 of *Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* forms the first portion of Fünfstück's account of the

<sup>1</sup> Kolbswitz, R. Ueber den Einfluss des Lichtes auf die Athmung der niederen Pilze, *Prings. Jahrb.*, Bd. xxxiii, Heft 1, p. 123, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> Canna, M. L. Popta. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Hemiasci, *Flora*, Bd. lxxxvi, Heft 1, p. 1, 1899.